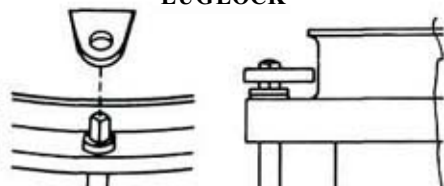


by Bob Saydlowski, Jr.

## Accessories

Here we are, at the end of another year already! This Close-Up column takes a look at some accessory products recently released. Naturally, all pieces of equipment cannot be included here, and my apologies are out to those companies missed.

### LUGLOCK



The *L.T. Lug Lock* is a new device designed to keep drum rods from backing off under hard playing. *Lug Locks* are made of nylon, rounded at one side, straight at the other. A hole in the *Lug Lock* allows it to fit over the drum rod's head, while the flat side presses against the rim. At the slightest bit of backing off, the flat side turns, engaging a corner against the rim. The gripping action keeps the rod from going any farther. The *Lug Locks* are easily installed, and easily removable—a good alternative to using *Loctite* on the rod threads. (NOTE: *Lug Locks* will not fit Sonor or Premier rod heads.) A set of four retails at \$2.00.

### BLASTICS



Calato (the *Regal Tip* people) has just introduced *Blasticks*—a cross between a drum stick and brush. The *Blasticks* have a hard, thermo-plastic shaft and approximately thirty rigid nylon bristles at the other end. They give a tighter, loud sound than regular brushes, and feel just like drumsticks. Rim shots are no problem and—even with uncoated heads—the brush-type sound prevails. Not to be confused with brushes, *Blasticks* are a nice little item to carry in your stick bag for that "different" sound. Retail: \$9.95/pair.

### STA-WAY AND CYM-SET



Corder Drum Company has taken over many of the old Fibes products, and two accessories are surely worth mentioning. The *Sta-Way* is a double-ended, hard-

rubber bumper which attaches to one of your drum's tension screws. Using the *Sta-Way* allows for protection of the drum finish, since it acts as a spacer between any two closely-set drums (i.e. snare drum and mounted tom). A nice item for keeping your drums unscratched. The *Cym-Set* positioner is a large, round piece of space-age plastic which fits on the cymbal tilter post under the cymbal's cup. It keeps your ride cymbal from moving about excessively, and also cuts down on a few overtones. (I've been using one of the old Fibes models for years!) The *Sta-Way* retails at \$3.75; the *Cym-Set* at \$4.50.

### BUZZBUSTER



The classic problem of sympathetic snare vibration is still among us. The strainer throw-off alleviates this quite easily when the drummer is not playing, but what about when he is playing?

*Buzzbuster* has taken one step towards eliminating unwanted vibration. *Buzzbuster* is a leg-operated sprung damper which attaches to the bottom of the snare drum. Two foam pads lie just out of contact with the snare wires, with a padded lever mounted off the side of the drum. By using a sideward leg motion against the lever, the pads dampen the snare wires, cutting off all noisy vibration. When pressure is released, the damper returns to its normal position. *Buzzbuster* does help when playing the tom-toms, but you do have to get some sort of technique down. Just leaving the damper against the wires will not help, as the snares will be choked, thus giving an unnatural sound. So, as you can imagine, a bit of synchronized leg movement is involved here.

*Buzzbuster* is definitely on the right track. Perhaps they can come up with a second version for permanent dampening, while still keeping a natural snare drum sound. Dealing with what seems to be a solutionless problem, *Buzzbuster* does a good job, even if the motion required to activate it is a bit foreign. The device will fit on all snare drums 5" to 8" deep. Retail: \$65.00.

### EXTERNAL MUFFLERS



As we all know, Rogers was the first on the scene with an external muffler. Now, adding in their own versions are Sonor, Tama, Yamaha and Pearl. All of them attach to the rim in one fashion or another. Sonor uses a spring steel clip, while the others fasten with a screw, clamping to the hoop. All are adjustable for degree of muffle, and come in various sizes. (Sonor and Yamaha each offer two sizes.) The most convenient, perhaps, is Tama's muffler, which allows quick-release by flipping a hinged lever. External muffling is, technically, the better way to go; the drumhead moves naturally, and unlike internal dampers, externals are rattle-free when not in use. And, externals may be positioned anywhere by the player. Prices vary, with the highest retail at \$18.00 (Sonor).

### DRUM MUFF



On the other end, *Drum Muff* is designed to help dampen bass drums—internally. A nine-ounce piece of gray polyfoam fits snugly into the bottom 1/3 of the drum. Rounded at its bottom, and cut into "waves" at its top by a laser-eye band saw, the *Drum Muff* is effective for drummers who want that tight-muffled sound with no overtones. Personally, I found my double-headed bass drum to be a bit *too* dead with the *Drum Muff* inside. After cutting off about an inch of its depth, the sound was much more satisfactory, and I'm currently using it in the drum. The *Drum Muff* has more of a dampening effect than a *Deadringer*—in fact, probably about the same as a thin pillow—but it looks a whole lot better. Retail: \$17.00.